



NWS Albany

Serving eastern New York and western New England

National Weather Service Albany's

Frost/Freeze Program

The NWS Frost/Freeze program is to alert backyard gardening enthusiasts and small farmers to the possibility of a frost or killing freeze during the "Growing Season".

The "**Growing Season**" is defined as the period between the average (median) date of the last Spring Freeze and the average date of the first Fall Freeze.

When a Frost or Freeze is expected during the "Growing Season", NWS Albany will issue a **Frost Advisory** or **Freeze Warning** respectively. This alerts gardeners and growers that action may need to be taken to protect tender vegetation from potentially harmful cold temperatures.

Actions in the spring can help protect young vegetation that is just in its early stages. Actions in the fall may help prolong the season by days or more.

Outside of the growing season (see maps to the right), the NWS will **not** issue any Frost or Freeze headlines, but strongly urge you to follow local forecasts of temperatures and take protective actions if needed.

Some terminology and guidance that may help you in your efforts to protect your vegetation:

Frost can occur when the temperatures fall to the mid 30s, especially in rural areas. It is a localized phenomena and the occurrence can vary greatly across a small area.

Frost becomes more widespread when the temperature falls below 32°F with a **freeze** possible.

A **hard freeze** is possible when temperatures are $\leq 28^\circ\text{F}$.

Some protective measures may include;

- Bring plants inside or under some sort of cover.
- Covering your plants with a light weight fabric.
- Water the soil thoroughly **BEFORE** as wet soils retain heat better.
- Heaters or smudge pots.
- Wind machines – to mix the air so the average temperature near the ground is raised.

